



RYERSON UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Monday, November 24, 2014
Jorgenson Hall – JOR 1410
380 Victoria Street
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Ryerson University held on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Jorgenson Hall, JOR-1410.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: J. Fukakusa (Chair), M. Maheux (Vice Chair), M. Al Zaibak, L. Amleh, C.A. Bissonnette, J. Cockwell, M. Frazer, B. Halilovic, C. Hilkené S. Levy, B. Richards, H. Rosen, A. Snobar, D. Sookram, R. Traill, K. Varma, J. Vukovic, T. Webb, P. Yaffe

Regrets: L. Bloomberg, N. Mohamed, M. Dionne, N. Geist

Board Secretariat:

J. Shin Doi, General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Governors
C. Redmond, Governance Officer

Others Attending

M. Lachemi, Provost and Vice President Academic
J. Hanigsberg, Vice President Administration & Finance
A. Kahan, Vice President University Advancement
W. Cukier, Vice President Research and Innovation
E. McGinn, Assistant Vice-President, Communications, Government and Community Engagement
P. Stenton, Deputy Provost and Vice Provost University Planning
M. Ng, Executive Director, Office of the President
S. Zolfaghari, Interim Vice Provost Faculty Affairs
D. O'Neil Green, Assistant Vice President and Vice Provost Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
H. Lane Vetere, Vice Provost, Students
J. Winton, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Vice President Financial Services
C. Sass-Kortsak, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources
E. Stroback, Executive Lead Capital Projects and Real Estate
R. Hoilett, President, Ryerson Student Union
J. Root, Vice President, Education, Ryerson Student Union
D. Shivraj, former Student Board member and Rise For Ryerson
A. Persaud, President Ryerson Commerce Society

1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)

END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION

3. INTRODUCTION

Rajeane Hoilett, President of the Ryerson Student Union (RSU) spoke to the Board of the Student Action Committee's demands; reduction of international student tuition fees; immediate freeze on tuition fees; creating a more accountable budget process; and increasing student representation on the Board of Governors. Mr. Hoilett said that the Student Action Committee had collected over 6000 signatures on a petition and had camped outside the main entrance of Jorgenson Hall to bring attention to their demands.

Darren Shivraj, former Board member and a student leader asked the Student Action Committee and those concerned students to consider opportunities for financial support available across the University. He also reported that many Ryerson students saw value in the fees they paid and had voted for fee increases in recent referendums. Mr. Shivraj and his group Rise For Ryerson wanted the Board to know that the Student Action Committee did not represent all students at the University.

Members of the Student Action Committee spoke of their experience at the University; their struggle to pay student fees, and the lack of part-time student representation on the Board.

Janice Fukakusa thanked the students for their comments and noted that any motions brought to the Board for approval must be brought by a member of the Board.

The President asked the students to work together to achieve their goals. He said that the administration had heard the Student Action Committee's concerns. The President added that the strength of the University is that all groups want the same thing: an accessible, affordable, high quality education.

Jesse Root, Vice President, Education of RSU spoke of creating an alternative budget and reminded Board members that RSU would expect this be considered when the budget was presented to the Board.

3.1 Chair's Remarks

No remarks noted.

3.2 Approval of the November 24, 2014 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President commented on the students' concerns, possible ongoing disruption and the difficulty of resolving the issue of government funding.

The President spoke of Julia Hanigsberg's departure, biographical details of her time at Ryerson and her ability to make changes when necessary. He noted her skill and empathy when dealing with bargaining

units and the regard that OPSEU had for her. The President said that she had changed the University for the better.

The President committed to bringing a presentation on mental health issues to the Board in January. The President also spoke of recent media reports on the lack of sexual assault policies at Universities across Canada. Ryerson University does not currently have one so he has asked the Provost to take a leadership role on this matter.

The President reported that past Board Chair Julie Davis and recently passed away.

Spoke of the Allan Slaight Radio Institute Three Million Dollar (\$3,000,000) gift and thanked Phyllis Yaffe for her work on facilitating the gift.

The President reported of his appointment to the John Tory's mayoral transition team and said that he was very optimistic about Mr. Tory's leadership.

The President spoke of performance indicators and how they are formulated and the importance of reputation in the rankings.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report as filed.

6. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

6.1 New Initiatives

The Provost spoke of several new initiatives such as the big data consortium; the IBM Watson ecosystem and e-learning funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The President added that joining the Watson Group is a quite an achievement for the University.

7. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Wendy Cukier presented information on why scholarly research and creative activity (SRC) is important to universities and to Ryerson. Not only is it part of the University's mission it also informs teaching and learning; drives economic development and creates jobs and opportunities for students. Research also affects public policy and strengthens partnerships between industry and the community. It also drives rankings and reputation for University.

Janice Fukakusa thanked Wendy for a great presentation and her great work at the University.

8. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Julia Hanigsberg introduced the People First initiative and spoke of the genesis of the name which was an idea that had originated in the Master Plan.

8.1 People First Presentation

Christina Sass-Kortsak spoke of the People First concept and its aim to make employees feel valued by the University. Ms. Sass-Kortsak spoke of several initiatives such as awards, recognition and career development opportunities plus collaboration with Denice O'Neil Green's office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Sass-Kortsak spoke of the benefits of the People First philosophy which promoted a healthy workplace and inspired loyalty and pride in its employees.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of the September 29, 2014 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

- (b) First and Second Quarter Financial Statements

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

That the First and Second Quarter Financial Statements be approved as presented.

- (c) Appointment of the Interim Vice President Administration and Finance

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT Janice Winton be appointed Interim Vice President, Administration and Finance, effective December 1, 2014 and continue in this position until such time as the Vice President Administration and Finance is appointed.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Janice Fukakusa noted that Tyler Webb had requested to speak on behalf of the other student representatives on the Board.

Tyler Webb gave the following address to the Board:

As one of the elected student representatives on the Board I'd like to share with you my thoughts surrounding the current Freeze the Fees campaign run by the Ryerson Students' Union and the events of tonight's meeting.

I'd like to begin by saying that being a student member on the board has been an incredibly interesting and rewarding, but ultimately challenging experience so far. Understanding the ins and outs of an organization of this size from both an administrative and financial standpoint is a daunting task. I have worked hard, in the short time I have served on the board, to learn quickly, to seek out multiple sources of information and to examine the facts critically. I have taken an active role in communicating with students, student groups and campus media so they too can

benefit from this information and engage in informed and meaningful discussions surrounding the universities budget and budget process.

I've done all of this because I believe an educated student population is the biggest asset the university has to provide the best possible student experience.

I believe that any student lead campaign on campus should reflect a movement designed to educate students, encourage informed discussion and promote positive solutions in partnership with a very active and incredibly supportive administration.

I believe tuition reductions can and should be implemented where they are sustainable and directed to those in need. I believe an active dialogue with the province on the state of post-secondary funding can and should be had. I believe there is incredible value in an informed student body engaging in discussions with a supportive administration to come up with innovative solutions and proactive approaches to increasing the value students see from their tuition dollars. As an aside I'd like to specifically thank the Provost for taking quick action to respond to student concerns and begin implementing regular town halls where discussions can be had on the issues students identify as having the greatest impact on their experience at Ryerson.

The cost of education, the value students' see in their tuition and the ways the university can maximize the student experience as government funding is being cut by more than tuition increases can cover, are conversations that need to happen. This issue is not as simple as a having a tuition freeze or not having one and the most disingenuous thing we can do is present students with the opportunity of a tuition freeze without discussing the sacrifices associated with it. When students are empowered with the facts at hand the conversation can shift to the balancing of priorities within a constrained system. This is a conversation many students are ready to have, a conversation where there is more on the table than just the cost of tuition. A conversation where tuition increases may be considered as long as the value students see in their experience increases along with it.

This isn't a zero sum game, there are incredible possibilities for synergies to be found, for inventive and collaborative solutions to have more impact than their bottom line. We've seen the reputation of this university skyrocket in last several years, we've seen innovative approaches to experiential education and a new academic plan that supports them. These are student experience and reputation advancements a dollar amount cannot be attached to and I can confidently tell you there is an increasingly large group of students who feel the same way.

Fundamentally I believe we as students should work aggressively with instead of aggressively against the university and I will be the first to pledge my time and focused attention to ensuring students are given the opportunity to learn about the universities budget and engage in meaningful dialogue in the budget planning process. By focusing on real, sustainable solutions that make enhancing the student experience a priority we can leverage the creativity, leadership and innovative spirit of all Ryerson students.

Ashisha Persaud, President of the Ryerson Commerce Society said that Ryerson's reputation is rising and will continue to make sure that all student voices are heard.

Janice Fukakusa thanked the students for being very respectful of the Board's work

10. TERMINATION